

TO

DISPATCH		CLASSIFICATION SECRET	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NO. EGMA 39999
TO	Chief of [] INFO IO, EE, WE, COS/G		HEADQUARTERS FILE NO. 200-124-39/3
FROM	Chief of Base, Munich []	DATE 28 January 1959	
SUBJECT	DTDORIC/QKACTIVE/Operations Transmittal of PBCHORD Memo on "Developments Leading Toward Establishment of Russian Center in Brussels"	RE: "43-3" - (CHECK "X" ONE)	
ACTION REQUIRED	None. For your information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARKED FOR INDEXING	<input type="checkbox"/> NO INDEXING REQUIRED
REFERENCE(S)		INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED BY QUALIFIED HQ. DESK ONLY	

We are transmitting under separate cover a PBCHORD memorandum prepared by [] on 14 January 1959 on the subject of "Developments Leading Toward Establishment of Russian Center in Brussels." We thought that this item might be of interest to you.

Approved [] []

Attachment: A/s

Distribution:

2 - [] w/l cy att (USC)
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200-124-39/3

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SEPARATE COVER ATTACHMENT

TO EGMA 39999

January 14, 1959

Director, Political Affairs Division

Director of Emigre Relations

Developments Leading toward Establishment of
Russian Center in Brussels

As has often been noted in correspondence from this office, the Russian emigration in Brussels has had at its service for many years a sort of cultural center called Russkiy Dom ("The Russian House"). Physically speaking, the Russkiy Dom is a sort of Belgian version of Tolmachevsky's svobodnoi dom ("Free Russian House") in New York, a formerly expensive "town house" at 109 Chaussee de Vlougaat, just off the fashionable Avenue Louise. An important difference is that the Russkiy Dom has a bar and buffet-restaurant. The latter also rents office space on an upper floor to the Tolstoy Foundation.

The Russkiy Dom was founded and has been run by Orehov, chairman of the board. The support has been attributed to a variety of sources including individual contributions, membership fees, income from the restaurant and, recently most important, a subsidy from a wealthy Belgian with former business interests in Russia.

Over the past few years, however, the Russkiy Dom has been drifting downhill. Membership, attendance and even interest among the emigres has fallen off to a point where the house has been largely empty most of the time. The bar and restaurant have been losing rather than making money. Worst of all, the Belgian patron recently discontinued his subsidy.

Meanwhile, as has been reported regularly by this office, the Union of Soviet Citizens in Belgium, openly supported by the Soviet embassy, operates its own home and has been carrying on a schedule of social and cultural activities on an increasing scale.

During my recent visit to Brussels to close out our board's heir activities, November 17-19, I reviewed this problem thoroughly with interested local emigre figures including Orehov himself, and our man Romanov, Mr. Isaykin and Madame Chayevsk, owner of the librariya Slova. There is agreement by all that the demise of the Russkiy Dom would be a severe blow to the Russian emigration, that it should and could be given new life.

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28 Jan 59

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perform an important and useful function in serving the emigration but this would be possible only by ending its status as an RNC-Trekhov faction and creating a joint management and control representing all sufficient elements of the emigration. Trekhov declared himself in full agreement with such a concept, and he and the others referred to the jointly organized May of Irreconcilability meeting at the Zem as an example of the results to be expected from joint action.

During these November discussions in Brussels, the local emigre leaders attempted to ascertain the Committee's views toward this proposed move and the extent to which we might be willing to grant financial assistance. I told him that we would naturally be in full sympathy with any move toward consolidating the strength of the emigration and creating a live, effective center in the Zem. However, the success of such a move would have to depend on their own initiative and efforts, because the Committee could not undertake to underwrite any such center on a continuing basis. I suggested that they explore all possibilities for support from among themselves. For example, I suggested that under such a joint management Nadezhda Kornilova might wish to consolidate her Librariya Slavy with the Zem, thereby adding an additional source of income. I advanced the suggestion that, especially as Librariya Slavy does not combine with the Zem, we might consider the establishment of a branch of the Stevens Library there, giving them a monthly allowance on the order of that which we allow for other branches, in the neighborhood of 50-70 marks.

During the holidays Trekhov wrote to tell us that there had already been one meeting of a joint committee to lay plans for the establishment of a jointly operated center and another meeting was scheduled within a few days. Arthur advised us that he and Mamakov expected to make a trip to Germany, ending January 3-5 in Munich, and hoped to talk to us at that time. I replied that I expected to be out of town but Mr. Selbardiis would be here and glad to see them.

Mr. Selbardiis reports that Trekhov's trip was intended primarily to round up support for the Zem under joint management. Agreement had been reached on a governing board composed of the following individuals, acting as representatives of their respective groups:

A.I. Isaikin	- PsOPE
V.V. Trekhov	- RNC
V.V. Perokrestenko	- Union of Writers and Journalists
D.I. Topuz	- EOV
A.N. Tverbus-Tverdik	- STU
V.V. Vromskiy	- EDUAR
O.V. Zhelyabina	- RNTS.

The coordinating group will serve primarily to organize social and cultural activities. It is expected that it will also work out joint anti-communist meetings, etc. As an important by-product it will promote better understanding and serve as an indirect unifying agent.

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It is estimated that a monthly subsidy in the neighborhood of some 100 Belgian Francs (\$75 or DM 300) would be necessary to operate the small press on an effective scale. (We have not seen the figures which would support such an estimate, but it has been accepted by the other three elements in Brussels.) Chekhov stopped off at ETS headquarters in Frankfurt en route to Munich and apparently received assurance of a contribution subsidy in the order of DM 100 per month. In Munich, moreover, the ECPA also made a firm commitment of DM 100 monthly. It was then proposed that the American Committee grant DM 100 per month, in the form of reimbursement for a branch of the Stevens library or working through ETSOHI, or divided, or both.

To give positive expression to our approval of this initiative, a
decision was taken to establish, as of 1 February, a library branch in
the weekly shop with an initial monthly payment of 300 50 (312).

We are also giving favorable consideration to making a further grant of another \$150 per month via EBUHR, thus permitting the latter to share the venture on a basis at least partially consistent with the status of the organization in Belgium. We are delaying commitment on this, however, until clarification of the measures to permit auditing of accounts and classification of expenditures by the various participants and also to be made available for your consideration. We trust that you will approve of the measures which we have undertaken to date and hope that you will approve of the proposed additional measure if and when our own questions are answered satisfactorily.

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